

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 4, 6-41 and 68-74 are pending herein. Claims 14-41 have been allowed. Claims 10 and 74 have each been amended as supported by Fig. 8 of the present application, for example.

1. Claims 10-13 and 68-74 were rejected under §103(a) over Arai in view of Ogawa (U.S. 4,805,057), Kohno or Kaida. To the extent that this rejection might be applied against amended claims 10 and 74 (and all claims depending therefrom), it is respectfully traversed.

Fig. 8 of the present application shows one example of the claimed piezoelectric/electrostrictive (P/E) device. Pending independent claims 10 and 74 each recite, among other things, a P/E device including a fixation section (22), thin plate sections (16a,16b) and a movable section (20). Pending claim 10 and 74 have each been amended in order to clarify that at least one of the movable section (20) and the fixation section (22) includes opposing surfaces that are parallel to at least one of the thin plate sections (16a,16b). The applied prior art of record, discussed below, does not disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

The PTO acknowledges Arai does not disclose an actuator section having stacked type P/E elements positioned on the thin plate sections. The PTO is arguing, however, that Ogawa '057, Kohno or Kaida each disclose multiple-layered P/E elements that skilled artisans would have been motivated to substitute for the single-layer P/E elements shown in Figs. 11 and 12 of Arai, for example. Notwithstanding the PTO's position in the Office Action, even if such a substitution were made, the resultant structure would still fail to disclose or suggest each and every element now recited in each of pending claims 10 and 74. As discussed above,

pending claims 10 and 74 have been amended in order to clarify that at least one of the movable and the fixation sections includes opposing surfaces that are parallel to at least one of the thin plate sections. This claimed feature is illustrated in Fig. 8 of the present application, which shows that the thin plates (16a, 16b), the movable section (20) and the fixation section (22) are separate components that are attached to one another. As such, the thin plates include surfaces that are parallel to opposing surfaces of at least one of the movable and fixation sections. It is clear from Arai's Figs. 11 and 12 that the movable and fixation sections in Arai's substrate structure do not include such opposing surfaces that are parallel to the thin plates. This rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection over Arai in view of Ogawa '057, Kohno or Kaida are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3, 4 and 6-9 were rejected under §103(a) over Arai in view of Kohno and combined with Gravley or Um. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish pending claim 10 from the PTO's asserted combination of Arai in view of Kohno. Since Gravley and Um do not overcome the deficiencies of Arai in view of Kohno (as discussed above), claims 3, 4 and 6-9 are also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art of record.

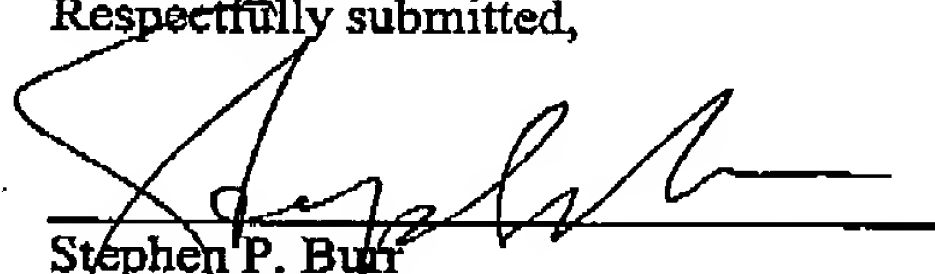
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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